(b) whether the country also lacks sports infrastructure of international standards; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to provide the required infrastructure facilities of international level in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI) : (a) Severe financial constraints and the enormity of the challenge of sports promotion and development of sports infrastructure across the country are main reasons for the slow development of sports performance in the country. In addition, the ratio of persons participating in competitive sports is low in comparison with those participating in recreational sports—leading to lesser competition and consequently lower performance. Food habits, age of entry into a sports discipline, environment and motivation play a crucial role in deciding the level of performance of a sports person. Besides, sports is yet to be made an integral part of our educational curriculum. All factors mentioned above have affected the level of performance of sports persons in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) On receipt of viable proposals, financial assistance is provided under schemes for creation of infrastructure facilities.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

ICAR Researches in Rice and Cotton Pests

1965. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of researches made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to protect rice and cotton from devastating pests;

(b) the details of other projects undertaken by the ICAR under National Agricultural Projects; and

(c) whether genetically engineered cotton and rice would be made available to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) since its inception has focussed on developing resistant varieties to different diseases and insect pests of cotton and rice and their control measures through the use of pesticides/biopesticides and other agronomic manipulations. Also easily adaptable and economically viable IPM strategies have been developed for the control of major pests of rice and cotton.

(b) Projects undertaken through financial support of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) are presented in the statement. *(See below)*

(c) The transgenic *Bt* cotton developed by Mahyco is being evaluated through All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project in six States during 2001-2002 crop season. Its suitability for commercial cultivation will be known after getting results of these trials as well as trials being undertaken by the Deptt. of Biotechnology.

In so far as development of genetically engineered rice crop is concerned, the transgenics are in preliminary stages of development and evaluation.

Statement

ICAR Projects Under National Agriculture Technology Projects

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Place of Operation
1.	IPM in rice and cotton ecosystems—technology improvement, validation and transfer.	TNAU, Madurai
2.	Improving the bio-efficacy and persistence of neem in pest management of rice and rice based cropping systems.	TNRRI, Thanjavur

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Place of Operation
3.	Mycopesticides—improvement of production and formulation technologies for management of major insect pests on cotton	AU, Visakhapatnam
4.	Role of Microbivorous nematodes in nutrient mineralization in Rice-Wheat agroecosystem to promote sustainable agriculture	IARI, New Delhi
5.	Mycoinsecticide and Botanaical for Management of Rice pests in Assam	AAU, Jorhat
6.	Development of Integrated Disease Management Strategies for Sheath Blight Disease under Rice-Rice Cropping system	AAU, RRS, Titabar
7.	Isolation of secondary metabolites from fluorescent pseudomonas and their biocefficacy against pathogens of Rice	NARDI, Secundrabad
8.	New Approaches to Integrated Pest Management in Rainfed Rice based Production Systems	Director of Rice Research, Hyderabad
9.	Development of adaptable IPM in Rice Wheat Cropping system	NCIPM, New Delhi
10.	Impact of pesticides on soil-biota and non-targeted Organisms in rice.	BHU Varanasi-221005 (UP)
11.	Control of leaf curl disease in cotton and development of protocols for mass multiplication of predators, parasites and insects pathogens	CICR, Nagpur-440010 (MS)
12.	Development of Weather Based Fore-warning system for Crop pests and Diseases	CRRI, Cuttack